casually mentioned about the paucity of funds during the interregnum between the non-receipt of fees payable by newspapers and the release of grants-in-aid by the Government.

(b) Section 15(1) and Section 15(3) of the Press Council Act, 1978 confers on the Council the same powers as are vested in a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 and every enquiry held by the Council shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meanings of Sections 193and 228 of IPC. However, the Council does not have any legally enforceable sanction behind its pronouncements. The purpose of the PCI is to maintain the standard of newspapers and preserve freedom of the Press.

The power of censure under Section 14 of the Act should itself be a sufficient deterrent and preventive measure. The verdicts of the Council have been generally accepted. Having regard to the positive role being played by the Press Council. the question of its disbanding does not arise. The existing legal provisions are considered adequate.

नया गांव स्थित सीमेंट के कारखाने तथा खोट दामोदरपुरा स्थित विक्रम सीमेंट फैक्टरी में कुशल और अकुशल कर्मकार

1223. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** *क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:*

(क) 1 जनवरी, 1989 की स्थिति के अनुसार, मन्दसौर जिले में नया गांव स्थित सीमेंट के कारखाने तथा खोट दामोदर पुरा स्थित विक्रम सीमेंट फैक्टरी में कार्यरत कुशल व अकुशल कर्मकारों की संख्या कितनी है तथा उनमें से कितने कर्मकार जावड़ और नीमच तहसीलों से हैं तथा बाहरी से आये कर्मकारों की संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि पट्टेनामे में मौजूद शर्त के बावजूद इस प्रकार के किसानों के परिवारों के सदस्यों को, जिनकी भूमि उक्त कारखानों के लिए अधिगृहित की गई थी, प्राथमिकता के आधार पर अभी तक रोजगार नहीं दिया गया है और इसकी बजाय इन कारखानों में खाली पदों पर बाहरी क्षेत्रों के कर्मकारों की भर्ती की जा रही है और यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार मामले में कुछ कार्यवाही करने तथा पट्टेनामें में दिये गये निबन्धों और शर्तों का उपर्युक्त कारखानों द्वारा अनुपालन किये जाने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को निदेश जारी करने का विचार रखती है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री राधा कृष्ण मालवीय) : (क) से (ग) सूचना राज्य सरकार से एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Danger to Health due to Pesticides Residue in Fruits and Vegetables

1224. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news report citing findings from USA which highlight dangers posed to human health by pesticides residues in fruits and vegetables as reported in the newstime dated 1st March, 1989 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether similar warnings have been given by the National Core-group meeting held at New Delhi on 20th and 21st February, 89 by the Voluntary Health Association of India;

(c) whether numerous studies conducted by ICAR over last 10—15 years had reported higher levels of pesticides residue than permitted and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of samples of different fruits and vegetables tested and those found above permissible levels as indicated in part (c) above; and

(e) whether sample of water both above ground and underground are being tested regularly for pesticides; and if so, the detals thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government has seen the news report, a copy of which is annexed (*See* below)

(b) The Government has no authentic report on the discussion in National Core-group meeting on the 20th and 21st February, 1989.

(c) Some sporadic studies carried out by ICAR show presence of pesticides in fruits and vegetables in excess of the permissible limit.

(d) Approximately 25% market samples of certain vegetables were found to be contaminated with DDT residues in excess of the permissible levels.

(e) Under the Technology Mission on Drinking Water in villages and Related Water Management, regular tests are conducted to check the physical and Chemical quality of water. Regular tests are also conducted to monitor the river Ganga and a few of its tributaries since November, 1986 on a monthly basis by collecting water samples from 27 different locations in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The water samples have been analysed for residues of 12 major pesticides and their motabolites/isomars. The analytical collected so far did not show any definite pattern of variations.

Copy of News Report that appeared in Newstime dated 1-3-1989

US Plans Campaign to Tighten Law on Pesticides

REUTER

A US consumer group. warning that pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables pose a risk to children's health says it plans nationwide campaign to lobby for tighter federal limit to press Congress for changes in the pesticide laws. The national resources defenee council (NRDC) said on Monday a two-year study found that legally allowable pesticide residues in the most commonly eaten fruits and vegetables cause cancer and nerve damage in children.

The study, which the group said was the most comprehensive ever done on the topic, estimated that 4,500 to 6,200 children now aged five or younger would develop cancer sometime during their lives as a result of pesticide residues that met existing federal health standards. The NRDC said at least three million young children were being exposed to pesticides capable of damaging the nervous system at levels above those called safe by the federal government. The report studied 23 pesticides and 27 types of produce.

Pesticide Deaths

1225. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 150 pesticide deaths